

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

EUR

FROM: BONN

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 2092, MARCH 20, 8 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2092, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 721, LONDON 518, BERLIN 717.

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REFERENCE: DEPTTEL 2173, MARCH 19.

WE BELIEVE CHANCELLOR MADE POINTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN REFERENCE TELEGRAM. ACKERMANN IS EXPERIENCED REPORTER WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN BOTH FRANK AND CAREFUL IN WHAT HE TELLS US. HE ATTENDED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND TODAY REVIEWED FOR US HIS NEARLY VERBATIM NOTES.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS CHANCELLOR WAS MERELY "THINKING OUT LOUD" OR THAT HE MAY SAY SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT LATER. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT PRUDENT TO ASSUME CHANCELLOR WAS IN EFFECT TELLING HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES THAT AS HE ANALYZED THE DEVELOPING SITUATION HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO TAKE STEPS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE GDR. SOME BACKGROUND REASONS AS TO WHY THE CHANCELLOR MAY HAVE COME TO THIS CONCLUSION WERE SET FORTH IN EXBASSY DESPATCH 971, DECEMBER 22. WE BELIEVE THAT HIS CURRENT REASONING IS AS FOLLOWS (A) KEY TO GERMAN SECURITY IS PRESENCE UNITED STATES FORCES FEDERAL REPUBLIC WITHIN NATO FRAMEWORK (B) IN HIS HIERARCHY OF VALUE REUNIFICATION DEFINITELY

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By AK NARA, Date 1-8-70

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SUBORDINATE TO SECURITY; (C) HIS OWN PEOPLE ARE FEARFUL OF WAR; (D) HE DOES NOT CONSIDER BERLIN WORTH SERIOUS RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR; (E) HE WOULD NATURALLY PREFER STATUS QUO AND GIVEN HIS OWN CHOICE WOULD DO NO MORE THAN NEGOTIATE INTERMINABLY ON SOMETHING LIKE "GENERAL DISARMAMENT"; (F) HE IS PROBABLY FEARFUL THAT UNDER MACMILLAN'S INFLUENCE WESTERN SIDE MAY SERIOUSLY CONSIDER NEGOTIATING SUCH MATTERS AS DISENGAGEMENT AND THINNING OUT OF FORCES WHICH WOULD AFFECT BASIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC SECURITY (EMBT 2024); (G) TO AVOID BOTH THIS AND NUCLEAR WAR IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IN EXTREMES TO MAKE SACRIFICES IN CONNECTION WITH REUNIFICATION AND EVEN BERLIN.

THIS IS WHAT WE THINK ADENAUER MAY WELL HAVE HAD IN MIND. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, PROBABLY REPRESENT FALLBACK POSITION WHICH HE WOULD AGREE TO RELUCTANTLY AND AS A LAST RESORT AND WHICH HE WOULD NOT HIMSELF PRESENT PUBLICLY OR TO HIS ALLIES IF HE CAN AVOID DOING SO.

TASCA

SGC

Note: Advance copy Mr. Vigderman (EUR) 3:30 pm. 3/20-CWO-JSW.

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